

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 28, 2004, the Examiner asserts that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of invention:

Species I, illustrated in Fig(s). 1;

Species II, illustrated in Fig(s). 2;

Species III, illustrated in Fig(s). 3-4;

Species IV, illustrated in Fig(s). 5-7; and

Species V, illustrated in Fig(s). 8-9.

In reply to the Examiner's indication that Applicant is required to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits, Applicant hereby elects the invention of Species I, illustrated in Fig. 1. Claims 1, 2, 8, 16, and 18 are readable on the elected species. Furthermore, since claims 1 and 16 are independent claims, claims 3-7, 17, and 19 are subject to possible rejoinder upon allowance of their respective independent claims.

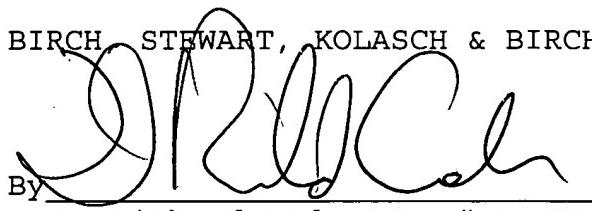
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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